

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43
BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL
3 HEALTH AS A PART OF OVERALL HEALTH AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE
4 ORAL HEALTH OF ALL IN IDAHO.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, oral health is a critical component of overall health affect-
7 ing speech, nutrition, growth and function, social development, employabil-
8 ity and productivity and quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, dental decay is the most common chronic disease among children
10 and is four times more common than asthma, four times more common than early-
11 childhood obesity and twenty times more common than diabetes; and

12 WHEREAS, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes
13 associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia,
14 preterm and low birth weight deliveries, and in some instances, death; and

15 WHEREAS, students miss more than 51 million hours of school and employed
16 adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental dis-
17 ease or dental visits; and

18 WHEREAS, dental decay affects 18% of the nation's children aged 2 to 4,
19 52% of children aged 6 to 8, and 61% of teenagers age 15; and

20 WHEREAS, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in
21 Idaho with 67.1% of third grade children having experienced dental decay;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of
24 preventive and restorative dental services; and

25 WHEREAS, the state has improved access for children enrolled in Idaho
26 Smiles, Idaho's dental program for children enrolled in Medicaid, from 38%
27 in 2008 to 61% in 2013, and more can be done for these low-income children who
28 suffer more tooth decay than their higher-income peers; and

29 WHEREAS, Idaho residents deserve access to high-quality oral health
30 care.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
32 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
33 the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize that good oral health is
34 critical to good overall health, and we support health policies at the state
35 and local levels that are consistent with each other and we promote opti-
36 mal oral health and believe that the impact of oral health on overall health
37 should be a consideration in the development of state health policy.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the use of available resources
39 to monitor oral health status and support community oral health initiatives
40 aimed at improving oral health literacy and better health outcomes.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we designate the month of February as Oral
42 Health Awareness Month to draw attention to ongoing efforts at the local,
43 state and federal levels to improve the oral health of all.